Development of stations in Orissa

1391. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Railway Ministry has any action plan for the development of Talchar Railway Station, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road, Baitrani Road and Korai and Bardallo railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Yes, Sir. Augmentation of passenger amenities is a continuous process. Details of development works taken up at these stations are given below.

JAJPUR-KEONJHAR ROAD: Provision of Platform chairs, furniture, renovation of waiting hall, retiring room, dormitory and improvement of circulating area, raising of platform etc.

TALCHAR: Improvement to lights in circulating area, improvement to drinking water system, improvement of lighting fannage and signage, provision of train indication Board, Coach Guidance Board, Touch screen system, IVRS, additional platform etc.

BAITRANI ROAD: Provision of Foot over bridge, extension of platform to accommodate 24 coaches length trains, provision of additional benches, concrete path-way on the end of platform etc.

KORAI: Extension of Platform, Concret Path-way on the end of platform, Benches and provision of fencing etc.

BARDALLO: There is no such Railway Station by name Bardallo.

Steps to curb steel prices

1392. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken serious steps to curb spiralling steel prices;

(b) if so, whether Global Market Outlook (GMO) had taken stock of steel prices in the month of May;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by GMO in its meeting; and

(d) to what extent Government has been able to curb spiralling steel prices and to what extent they have achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had taken the following measures between April-September 2008 to curb the spiralling steel prices:

(i) DEPB on steel products was withdrawn *w.e.f.* 27.03.2008.

(ii) Import Duty on all non-alloy steel, Zinc, ferro-alloys and metcoke was revised to 'Nil' from 5% *w.e.f.* 29.4.08.

(iii) CVED on TMT bars and rounds was modified to 'Nil' from 14%.

(iv) Export Duty on various categories of steel was imposed on 10.5.2008 and later enhanced on certain long products such as bars, wire rods, angles etc. *w.e.f.* 13.06.08.

(v) Ad-valorem export duty of 15% was imposed on iron ore of all categories and grades *w.e.f.* 13.06.2008.